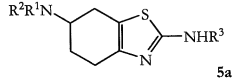
IN THE CLAIMS

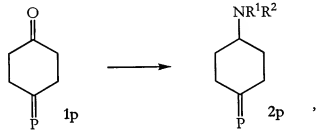
1. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a 2-amino-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-6-aminobenzothiazole **5a**:



5a

or an enantiomer or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of:

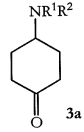
(a) reductively aminating a protected cyclohexandione **1p** with an amine R^1R^2NH to yield a protected 4-amino-cyclohexanone **2p**:



1p **2p** ,

wherein P is a protected ketone functionality, and R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen or a C_1-C_{12} alkyl;

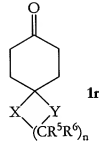
(b) deprotecting the protected 4-amino-cyclohexanone **2p** to yield an unprotected 4-amino-cyclohexanone **3a**:



3a ; and

(c) treating the unprotected 4-amino-cyclohexanone **3a** with iodine and a thiourea $H_2N(C{=}S)NHR^3$, wherein R^3 is hydrogen or a C_1-C_{12} alkyl to yield the 2-amino-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-6-aminobenzothiazole **5a** or an enantiomer or a salt thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protected cyclohexandione **1p** is a cyclic ketal **1r**:



1r

wherein:

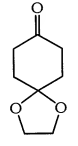
X and Y are independently O, S, NR^7 or Se;

n is 2 or 3;

R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen or alkyl; and

R^7 is hydrogen or alkyl.

3. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protected cyclohexandione **1p** is monoethyleneketal **1**:



1 .

4-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen and the other of R^1 and R^2 is *n*-propyl.

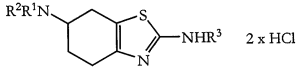
8. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^3 is hydrogen.

9. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reductive amination of step (a) is carried out with $NaCNBH_3$.

10-25. (Cancelled)

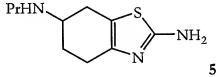
26. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the 2-amino-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-6-aminobenzothiazole **5a** comprises at least 95% of the (R)- or the (S)-enantiomer.

27. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, for the preparation of a 2-amino-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-6-aminobenzothiazole di-hydrochloric acid salt:



or an enantiomer thereof.

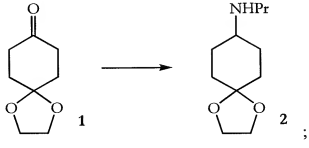
28. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of 2-amino-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-6-(propylamino)-benzothiazole **5**:



5

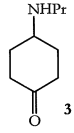
or an enantiomer or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of:

(a) reductively aminating cyclohexandione monoethyleneketal **1** with $PrNH_2$ to yield 4-*n*-propylamino-cyclohexanone-ethyleneketal **2**:



1 **2** ;

(b) deprotecting 4-*n*-propylamino-cyclohexanone-ethyleneketal **2** to yield 4-*n*-propylamino-cyclohexanone **3**:

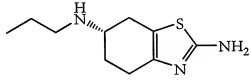


3

; and

(c) treating 4-*n*-propylamino-cyclohexanone **3** with iodine and thiourea.

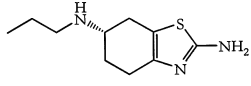
29. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 28, for the preparation of (S)-2-amino-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-6-(propylamino)-benzothiazole **I**:



I

or a salt thereof.

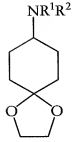
30. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 28, for the preparation of (S)-2-amino-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-6-(propylamino)-benzothiazole di-hydrochloric acid salt:



2 x HCl

31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A ~~process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protected~~ 4-amino-cyclohexanone-ethyleneketal having the structure: ~~has the structure,~~



2a ,

wherein one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen and the other of R^1 and R^2 is *n*-propyl.